

THE DESOTO COUNTY NEWS.

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VILLA'S DEATH BELIEVED A FAKE

Major General Funston Gives It As His Opinion, After Thorough Investigation of the Matter, Believes That the Story of Villa's Death Was Manufactured in Juarez.

San Antonio, Texas, April 19.—General Bell, reporting from El Paso to Major-General Funston gave it as his opinion after a thorough investigation as he could make that the report of Villa's death had been manufactured in Juarez. Consul Letcher, who said he had been communicating with Cusiuhiriachio, also has failed to verify the report.

If Francisco Villa is not dead, he has now an excellent opportunity to escape into territory far beyond the most advanced of the American detachment because the punitive force has penetrated about as far south as it is going with the present organization. Official admission that it was impossible to extend the main line of communication south of Satevo was taken to mean that the field of operations would be restricted to that district over which detachments of cavalry with provisions for one or two days could ride. Beyond the arc of that fan Villa will be safe so far as the Americans are concerned.

General Pershing is believed to have explained in detail this phase of the situation in a report to General Funston and to have made recommendations that more effective facilities for the pursuit of Villa be authorized. The drive of the three cavalry columns to Parral and its environs established the fact that every force sent forward must depend wholly on the quartermasters with the main column for supplies. They were reported to have fallen back to Satevo, but whether they have started out again to beat the trails in the district beyond is not known outside official circles.

Officers here regard the Parral incident as indicating clearly that General Pershing's men now have to guard themselves not only against attack by Villa's men, but those detachments of Carranza's army that are antagonistic to his announced attitude of co-operation.

General Funston was awaiting confirmation of the report that Villa is dead today.

MENDENHALL MUST SERVE LIFE SENTENCE.

Tallahassee, April 19.—The supreme court yesterday afternoon affirmed the decision of the circuit court of Pinellas county in the case of John J. Mendenhall, recently convicted at Clearwater of the murder of Susan Elliott, of Tampa, last July.

Mendenhall will be sent to the state convict camp to serve a life sentence. He was formerly a wealthy lumberman and citrus grower of Pinellas county and the case attracted much attention.

GLASS FACTORY FOR TARPON SPRINGS.

A new glass company is being formed at Tarpon Springs with G. E. Noblit, a prominent hardware man of that city, and M. L. Williams, an ex-veterinary surgeon from the government whose home is in the north. The two men have acquired considerable holdings in Tarpon Springs and believe the Gulf sands and silicate deposits of the vicinity are particularly adapted to manufacturing the finest quality of glass.

Several attempts have been made at Tarpon Springs prior to this time to build up a glass manufacturing industry, but never have the plans of the organizers been carried out. The silicate deposits in the vicinity are large and from the analysis made are well adapted to the work.

D. F. Conoley of the Tampa and Tarpon Springs Land Company when questioned this morning in regard to the new industry, said he knew the plans were being worked out but had no very definite information of it. Mr. Conoley's company are large holders of silicate deposits in the Tarpon Springs territory and probably control more of this material than any other firm or individual, so of course he is looking forward to the outcome of the new concern with a great deal of interest. In the event the work is successful it is likely that others will enter the business soon and it may not be long before Tarpon Springs is one of the greatest glass centers in the country.—Tampa Times.

D. B. M'KAY RE-ELECTED

Mayor of Tarpa With a Majority of 546 Over Frank C. Bowyer After a Hard Fought Battle, Keller Elected Treasurer on First Choice Votes.

After a hard contested election in the mayoralty race in the city of Tampa yesterday, Mayor D. B. McKay was re-elected by a vote of 546 over his competitor, Frank C. Bowyer.

For treasurer, Keller was elected on first choice votes, having received a total of 1,927 first choice votes, as compared with combined first and second choice votes of 1,483 for Gates and \$10 for Dawson.

Regener is re-elected assessor by a large majority. Hollingsworth, unopposed, is re-elected collector.

Captain W. A. Johnson is returned as city treasurer over J. W. Lester, and Tom Watson is elected municipal judge over M. Henry Cohen by a majority of 247.

For board of public works, C. W. Bartlett is elected over Henry Raymond.

The vote in favor of the water works purchase was overwhelming. There seemed practically no opposition to it.

DEATH OF MRS. T. H. FLETCHER.

Mrs. Thomas H. Fletcher died on December 9th, 1905, at Brewster, Fla., and was buried at Melrose, Fla. She was the daughter of Henry Hall, who lived on the Midland road, and whose large farm embraced the village of Barfield and many of the present homes and farms surrounding it. She was born and educated in Rutherford county, was a graduate of Sonoma college—in its palmy days before the war—and valedictorian of her class. She was the sister of Mrs. Allen Crockett, deceased, and of Colonel Alex. Hall, C. S. A., Josephus Hall and H. White Hall. She survived all of her brothers and sisters.

She and her husband and children removed to Florida many years ago. Her husband preceded her in death some time. She left five children, four girls and one boy; also twelve grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She kept up her interest in and love for her old home, relatives and friends, all her life.

The above notice, which was printed in her old home paper, refers to the mother of Mrs. P. T. Richards, of South Park avenue, with whom she lived many years while a resident of Arcadia, and will be remembered by many for her loving and kind disposition. She was a communicant of St. Edmund's Episcopal church, taking a most active part in the work of the church and Sunday school, until failing health prevented her. Her strong Christian character showed itself in the life she lived, she having a firm and steadfast faith in the benefits of the Redeemer's sacrifice. She was an inspiration to those who knew her and worthy of emulation. Besides her daughter, Mrs. Richards, she leaves a niece, Mrs. J. R. Dowd, Jr.

DECORATION COMMITTEE OF COMMERCIAL CLUB.

The decoration committee of the Commercial Club earnestly requests all owners of buildings in this city to use all the bunting, flags, and other decorations that they may have, in adorning their houses during the week that the Horticultural Association meets in this city.

MR. T. H. KARDS OFFERS A GOLD MEDAL.

In order to more clearly show to the visitors coming here to attend the meeting of the Horticultural Association the good work being done in the manual training department of the DeSoto County High School, Mr. T. H. Kards, the efficient instructor of the manual training department of the school, has offered a large gold medal to the pupil who makes the best bird house. Any member who is not over fourteen years old in any school in DeSoto county may compete in this contest. All bird houses entered in this contest must be in this city by Tuesday, April the 25th, the date of the beginning of the meeting of the Horticultural Association. Mrs. P. W. McAdow, of Punta Gorda, Editor E. R. Jones and Editor Andrew Carter, of this city, have been appointed as judges to decide the winner of the contest.

STATE HORTICULTURAL CONVENTION IN SESSION HERE NEXT WEEK, BEGINS TUESDAY AND CONTINUES FOUR DAYS

Delegates Are Expected From Every Part of the State. Hundreds Have Already Made Hotel Reservations, and It Is Expected That It Will Be the Best Attended Meeting Since the Organization of the Association. A Splendid Program Has Been Prepared, and It Behooves Every Citizen Interested in This Greatest of All Occupations to Be Present at Each Session.

GREAT AUTOMOBILE TRIP IS ARRANGED

Through the Generosity of the Citizens in Furnishing Cars, It Is Planned That Many of the Fine Groves and Farms in This Section Will Be Visited on Thursday. Ladies of the Civic League and Teachers of the DeSoto County High School Will Give Big Reception in Honor of the Members. The Farmers and Truck Growers of the County Are Most Cordially Invited to Attend All the Sessions.

Next Tuesday the State Horticultural Convention will convene in this city. It is expected that there will be delegates to this convention from every part of the state, hundreds of names having already been sent in asking for hotel reservations.

Judge A. F. Odlin will deliver the address of welcome, and Mrs. Marian A. McAdow, of Punta Gorda, will respond to the address of welcome in behalf of the association.

The members of the convention will be taken out Thursday in autos to visit some of the finest groves and farms in the surrounding country. In this connection we take the opportunity of asking that all citizens who will furnish autos for this trip will kindly report at once to Mr. W. E. Dunwoody, chairman of the automobile committee.

During the convention, hour not yet

given, the ladies of the Civic League and the teachers of the DeSoto County High School will give a reception in honor of the members of the convention, on the beautiful lawn surrounding the school building.

Probably no convention that has ever met here, or that will meet here in the future, can be made to mean so much as this one. The state of Florida is more interested in the development of horticultural interests than of any other resources, and we sincerely hope that our people may be alive to the benefits of such an assembly in our midst, and that each individual may feel himself a self-appointed committee in helping to give this association the best time of their lives.

A complete program of the meeting will be published in a later issue of the News.

WASHINGTON ASTIR WITH EXCITEMENT OVER RECENT ACTION OF PRESIDENT

In Calling a Joint Session of Congress to Hear Him On the Submarine Situation, The President This Morning Held a Conference at the White House With Chairmen Stone and Flood, of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and Representative Cooper and Senator Lodge. This Action Is Thought to Presage a Severance of Diplomatic Relations With Germany.

Washington, D. C., April 19.—A crisis seems to be impending at Washington in regard to the submarine question. President Wilson laid the question before the joint session of congress today at 1 o'clock.

The president this morning held a conference with Chairmen Stone and Flood, of the congressional committee dealing with foreign affairs, and Senator Lodge and Representative Cooper, the leading republican members.

The oft repeated statement at the white house and the rumors that before breaking off diplomatic relations with Germany the president would consult with the heads of the foreign affairs committee, were recalled with news of the call for the conference, and everywhere it was believed to be the forerunner of events of the greatest gravity. All official Washington, fearing the worst and hoping for the best, is practically in ignorance of the details of the president's plan.

MINUTES ARCADIA COMMERCIAL CLUB MONDAY NIGHT, APRIL 17TH, 1916

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Arcadia Commercial Club held Monday night, April 17th, 1916.

Roll call was dispensed with, but there were about thirty-five members present.

Minutes of the previous monthly meeting were read, and on motion were approved.

Communication from Tampa Board of Trade in reference to movement regarding the eradication of ticks was on motion referred to the agricultural committee.

Communication from the Everglades joint committee requesting the co-operation of all commercial organizations in Florida in the movement to have the state to carry out its obligation to drain the Everglades, was read and on motion was tabled for future reference.

Letter from Southern Settlement and Development Company, of Baltimore, in which they requested secretary of the Commercial Club to send monthly the list of inquiries on file in the office. Mr. J. L. Jones made a motion, which was adopted, that the

secretary be instructed not to comply with the request.

The educational committee made their report. Mr. S. J. Carlton, the chairman, being absent, President Lynch stated to the meeting that this committee had launched a movement to erect a dormitory in Arcadia for the accommodation of the pupils in the rural districts that wish to come here to take the course in normal training. He predicted that with the teachers that would be only too glad to board in the dormitory, that there would be at least seventy-five for the opening in the fall. Mr. Rupert Smith moved that the Commercial Club go on record as favoring the erection of the dormitory, and that the educational committee be authorized to circulate a petition for the purpose of calling an election to provide funds with which to build the dormitory. Motion prevailed unanimously.

Committee on new enterprises and manufactures made report. The sec-

CALL UP W. E. DUNWOODY, CHM.

Automobile Committee and Say, "Hello! Just Wanted to Say You Can Get My Car Next Thursday to Carry the Visitors Out. Yes, Will Furnish Chauffeur Also. You Can Count On My Having It There at the Appointed Hour. It Gives Me Pleasure To Do It. Good Bye."

During the meeting of the State Horticultural Association in this city next week it is planned to show our visitors some of the splendid farms and groves in the immediate community. It is therefore earnestly desired that every owner of a car will place it at the service of the automobile committee. Mr. W. E. Dunwoody is chairman of this committee, and if you desire to make him happy call him up at once and offer to him the use of your car for this short trip. It will be one of the best and cheapest advertisements you can give to our community, not only in the showing of our excellent lands, but in the way of showing the progressive and hospitable spirit of our people. Do this before you sleep again.

EASTER PROGRAM.

The children of the Brethren Sunday school will give an Easter program next Sunday morning. No preaching services; all the morning will be given to the children, who will commemorate the resurrection day. Everybody welcome, especially the parents and friends of the little people. Come at 10 a. m.

Following is the program: Opening song, Sunshine in My Soul. Jesus Loves Me: School. Prayer: Ira Dredge. Story of the Babe Jesus' Journey to Calvary: Mrs. S. W. Bail. Scripture reading, Matt. 28:1-12. Joe Slifer.

Welcome: Walter Weaver. The Dawn of Victory: Four Little Girls. Song, Christ Arose: School. Joy Bells: Esther Craft. He Is Risen: Four Small Boys. Easter Joy: Hazel Weaver. Our Easter Flowers: Four Girls. What We Can Do for Jesus: Infant Class, led by Violet LaBvre. Angels of Jesus: Etoll Smith. Easter Emblems: Lewis Rowan. John Cross, Ralph Ford, John Andrews, Frank Cross. Song, Easter Lilies: Gladys Andrews, Etoll Smith. When Their Easter in the Heart: James Cross. We Shall Stand Before the King: School. Easter Song: Leslie Rowan. Had I Been There: John Slifer. Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow: By All.

IN HONOR OF MISS VERA WELLES.

Miss Vera Parker entertained a number of her friends at an auction bridge party Tuesday afternoon at her beautiful home on West Hickory street. The party was given in honor of Arcadia's latest bride, Miss Vera Wells, the attractive daughter of Major W. G. Wells, who will on next Saturday become the wife of W. A. Nell, a prominent business man of Atlanta, Ga., who has been spending several months in this county on business. The afternoon was very enjoyably spent in playing cards and in chatting. After quitting the card tables the guests were invited into the large dining room, where a large cake was cut. In the slice of cake that Miss King received there was a large thimble. Miss Annie Davis received the ring, and Miss Bookie Campbell was the lucky finder of the dime. All of these favors have a meaning which, when translated, tells the future of the recipient. Gold cake, and strawberry sponge cake with whipped cream was served by the charming hostess as refreshments. The following are those who enjoyed this happy occasion: Miss Ethel Lee, Miss Vera Wells, Miss Annie Davis, Miss Bessie Wood, Miss Hazel King, Miss Willie Wells, Miss Bookie Campbell, Miss Inez Carlton, Miss Rose Miller, Mrs. A. C. Whitehead and Mrs. Ed. Wells.

Mrs. Hattie Williams, the popular attaché of the Arcadia House, spent yesterday in Bunker as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Frank B. Smith, returning on the afternoon train.

CONSCRIPTION QUESTION

Again Presents a Crisis in England. Lloyd-George is Ready to Resign. In Fact, It Is Rumored That He Has Already Quit.

London, April 19.—That a grave British cabinet crisis exists over the conscription question is undeniable, but, according to an authoritative statement, no resignations either ministerial or military have yet been extended. It probably will be several days before the crisis is ended.

The Marquis of Creve, lord president of the cabinet, in a statement to the house of lords, which was the first official admission of the gravity and perplexity of the situation among the ministers, stated that Premier Asquith might not be prepared even on Thursday to make his promised statement, in which case the house would sit on the following Monday.

Besides the conscription trouble in the cabinet, various factions in the house of commons are marshalling their forces for and against conscription. Members of the house serving at the front have been granted leave to remain here until a decision is taken. The fight centers primarily around the minister of munitions, David Lloyd-George, and Winston Spencer Churchill, and the probability of Mr. Lloyd-George succeeding Mr. Asquith as head of the government.

In event of the resignation of Mr. Asquith as a result of his objections to universal service, Mr. Lloyd-George is regarded in many quarters as his natural successor, but against this solution is the fact that a very strong member of the party in power is opposed to Mr. Lloyd-George as much as to Mr. Asquith.

Andrew Bonar Law, who is a conscriptionist in principle and who led the unionist party before he entered the coalition government, has a following which has grown enormously since the outbreak of the war, making him a possible successor to Mr. Asquith. This causes the utmost possible national interest in the present coalition government in power.

NEGRO LYNCHED IN WEST FLORIDA.

Bonifay, April 19.—This town is quiet after the lynching on Sunday of John Dykes, who on Saturday shot and killed S. A. Walker at Greenhead, south of here. Dykes was taken from the county jail after a mob had overpowered the jailer.

Sheriff Farrior, while on his way to Greenhead to arrest the black af-Walker had been killed, lost control of his machine, which turned over, breaking the sheriff's left leg and also breaking Deputy Sheriff Harrell's right arm in two places.

THE MULE HAS NOW A FRIEND AT COURT.

Frankfort, Ky., April 19.—The kicking propensity of a mule is a matter of "common knowledge," held the court of appeals here last Friday in reversing a verdict of \$500 damages awarded J. M. Pratt against the Consolidation Coal Company. From the testimony it appeared that Pratt, an employe of the company was kicked by a mule when he struck the animal with a whip as he stopped behind it. "The mule would have been untrue to itself and false to every tradition of its breed if it had kept its heels on the ground," said the court, "and an employe can not court danger by inviting a mule to kick him and then recover for consequent injuries." It was brought out that Pratt had never before driven anything but oxen.

\$3,000,000 EVERGLADES BONDS SOLD BY STATE.

Tallahassee, April 19.—Bonds to provide funds for completion of the work of draining the Everglades to the amount of \$3,000,000 have been sold, according to an announcement made by the state drainage board. The sale was made to J. S. Wilson, Jr., & Co., of Baltimore.

PRIZES OFFERED BY COMMERCIAL CLUB.

The Arcadia Commercial Club offers to the merchant having best decorated window during meeting of the State Horticultural Society, \$2.00. Also to the grocer having best display of vegetables in window during horticultural meeting, \$2.00. ARCADIA COMMERCIAL CLUB. G. S. Gardner, Secretary.